GERARD G. METZGER

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June 28, 2000

TAA-03-14246-6

### **VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS**

1/2523

Mr. Kevin Willis U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Airport Safety and Standards 800 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20591

Re:

New Orleans Lakefront Airport

Preliminary Application -Airport Privatization Pilot Program

Dear Mr. Willis:

You will find enclosed a certified copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District approving and ratifying the Preliminary Application for an Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §47134 for Privatization of the Lakefront Airport submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration on March 1, 2000. Unless I hear otherwise from you, I will assume that this Resolution satisfies the request identified as Item A in Mr. Bennett's letter of May 17, 2000.

Reiterating what was stated in my letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, please advise me if anything further is needed for the FAA to make a determination whether the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Preliminary Application is sufficient to quality for a March 2<sup>nd</sup> filing date and acceptance for review by the FAA.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

GERARD G. METZGER

GGM/scd

Kevin Willis U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Airport Safety and Standards June 28, 2000 Page 2

### Enclosure

cc: David L. Bennett, Director, Office of Airport Safety and Standards

Steve Steckler, President, IMG, Inc. Hon. James P. Huey, President, OLD

Hon. Gen. James E. Livingston, Commissioner, OLD

Hon. Robert E. Smith-Lupo, Commissioner, OLD

Hon. Marlin N. Gusman, Commissioner, OLD

Hon. Patricia W. Harris, Commissioner, OLD

Max L. Hearn, Executive Director, OLD

Randolph Taylor, Aviation Director, OLD

Gary G. Benoit, Esq., Senior Legal Counsel, OLD

# The Board of Commissioners

OF THE

## Orleans Levee District



SUITE 202 - ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 6001 STARS AND STRIPES BLVD.

New Orleans, La.

70126-8006

TEL. 504-243-4000

PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

June 26, 2000

Mr. Gerard G. Metzger Elk Place Professional Plaza 144 Elk Place, Suite 1710 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Re:

New Orleans Lakefront Airport

Preliminary Application -

Airport Privatization Pilot Program

Dear Mr. Metzger:

In accordance with your letter dated June 22, 2000, enclosed is a certified copy of Resolution No. 4-062100.

Sincerely,

May Llean Max Hearn

**Executive Director** 

gmb

**Enclosure** 

MOTION:

3-062100

RESOLUTION:

4-062100

BY:

President James P. Huey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Patricia W. Harris

June 21, 2000

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Orleans Levee District ("District") owns, operates and manages the New Orleans Lakefront Airport ("Airport"), located on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, in the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the present and anticipated budgetary problems, the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District ("Board") has directed the District's staff to identify and reduce certain costs and expenses of the District, and to identify ways to enhance revenues for the District, and

WHEREAS, reducing costs and expenses and increasing revenues from the operation of the Airport is essential in dealing with the budgetary problems confronting the District, and

WHEREAS, a means of achieving the objective of efficiently operating the Airport is to privatize its operations, through an operations agreement with a private company qualified to manage and operate a general aviation airport, and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress enacted the Airport Privatization Pilot Program, 49 U.S.C. § 47134, et seq., to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and through delegation, the FAA Administrator, to grant exemption from certain Federal statutes and regulations and FAA Grant Assurances, for up to five airport privatization projects, and

WHEREAS, to successfully privatize an airport, the FAA must exempt an airport sponsor from its obligations under FAA Grant Assurances, including FAA Grant Assurances requiring that revenues generated by an airport be used exclusively for the expenses associated with the operations of an airport and requiring that the sponsor of an airport return airport property, or the fair market value of the property, deeded by the Federal government to an airport upon transfer of the airport to a third party, and

WHEREAS, without obtaining exemptions from the FAA
Assurances under the Airport Privatization Pilot Program, the Orleans Levee
Board would not be able to privatize the New Orleans Lakefront Airport for the
benefit of the Orleans Levee District, and

WHEREAS, the Board passed Resclution No. 5-021600 on February 16, 2000, giving its President, James P. Huey, authority to take any and all actions in the pursuit of privatizing the operations of the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, and

WHEREAS, the Board and its advisor, Infrastructure Management Group, Inc., submitted a Preliminary Application for an Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §47134 for Privatization of the Lakefront Airport to the FAA on March 1, 2000, and

WHEREAS, officials with the FAA have requested that the Board approve and ratify the Preliminary Application filed on behalf of the Board on March 1, 2000, and

WHEREAS, officials with the FAA have indicated to the Board that there may be supplemental documents required to be submitted to their office in connection with the Preliminary Application.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Board approves and ratifies the Preliminary Application for an Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §47134 for Privatization of the Lakefront Airport submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration on March 1, 2000, and approves and ratifies the execution of said Preliminary Application by the Board's President, James P. Huey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board's President, James P. Huey, is authorized to submit any additional documents on behalf of the Board as requested by the FAA for the New Orleans Lakefront Airport to qualify under the Airport Privatization Pilot Program..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That the President is hereby authorized to sign any and all other documents necessary to carry out the above.

AYES:

Commissioners Cain, Carter, Gusman, Harris,

Landry, Livingston and Lupo

NAYS:

None

ABSENT:

None

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: Yes

THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY.

ROBERT E. SMITH LUPO, SECRETARY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF

THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT